

Edwards

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FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

45

Based on the series shown on **B B C** TV.



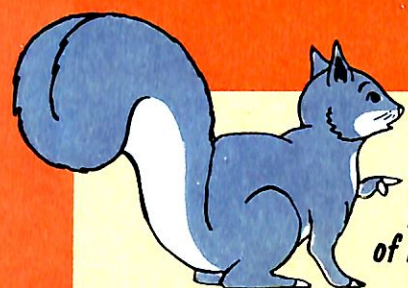
FREE
Badger
model 3
inside

NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

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Squirrel says,

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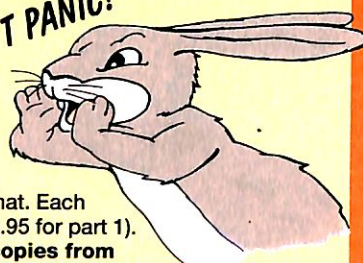
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TALES OF FARTHING WOOD

It's fast becoming a survival
of the fittest in White Deer
Park.

ALL ABOUT...Pine martens

Which one of the Farthing
Wood band do you think
they are related to?

FASCINATING FACTS

Take a look at the colourful
creatures that call a coral
reef their home.

DISCOVERING NATURE

Make a leaping Edible frog
or an egg-box croc!



HOW TO DRAW

The Warden's cat is a
snooty old fellow, but
also a gentleman.

SECRET WORLD OF...

A river in winter

You might not spot any
Water voles, but can you
see where they live?

PUZZLE IT OUT

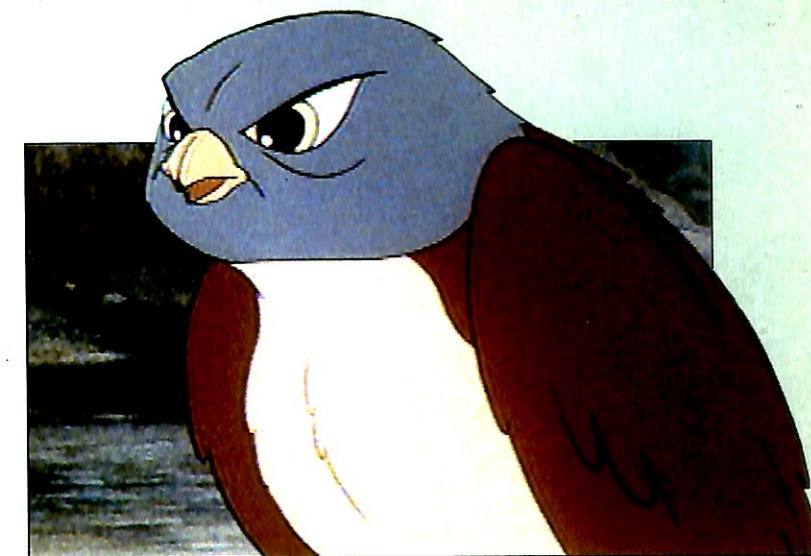
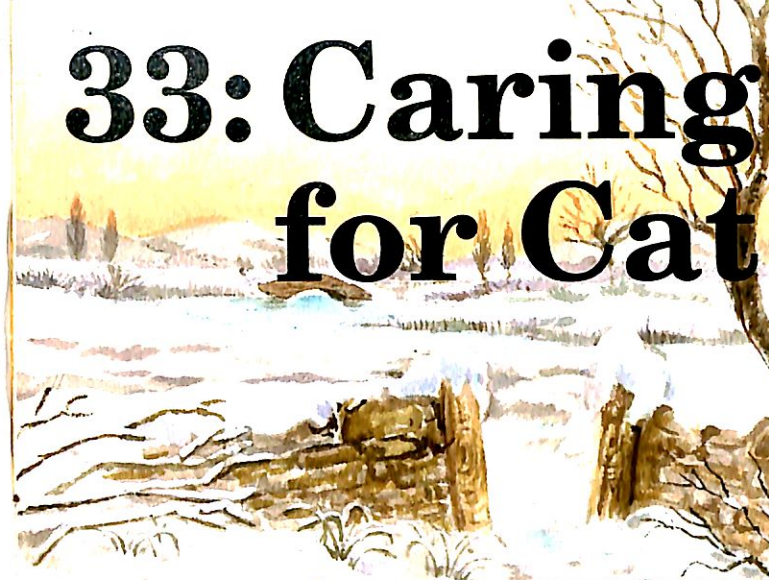
Take time out to explore
an underground cave with
Badger and Mole.

CREDITS

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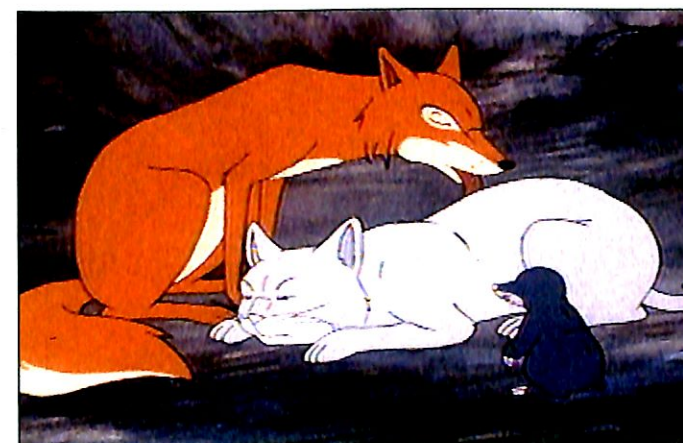
Key: AA = All About...; Cll = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature; FF = Fascinating Facts; FWF = Farthing Wood Friends page; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out; SW = Secret World.

33: Caring for Cat



Kestrel had seen the Warden's cat talking to Mole. She thought that Cat was going to eat him so, with claws stretched out, she attacked. The animals took the injured Cat back to Badger's sett.

Kestrel looked miserable. "How very embarrassing," she wailed. "First I kill Mrs Fieldmouse, and now this. How embarrassing."

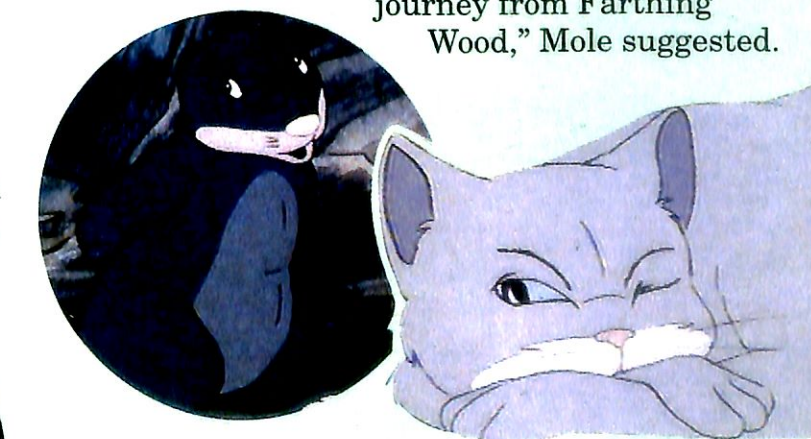


"Don't worry," said Vixen, licking Cat's scratches. "Look, the bleeding has stopped now. How do you feel?" she asked Cat, kindly.



"A bit weak," complained Cat. "Mole, you look after him while we go hunting," said Fox.

"I could tell you about our journey from Farthing Wood," Mole suggested.



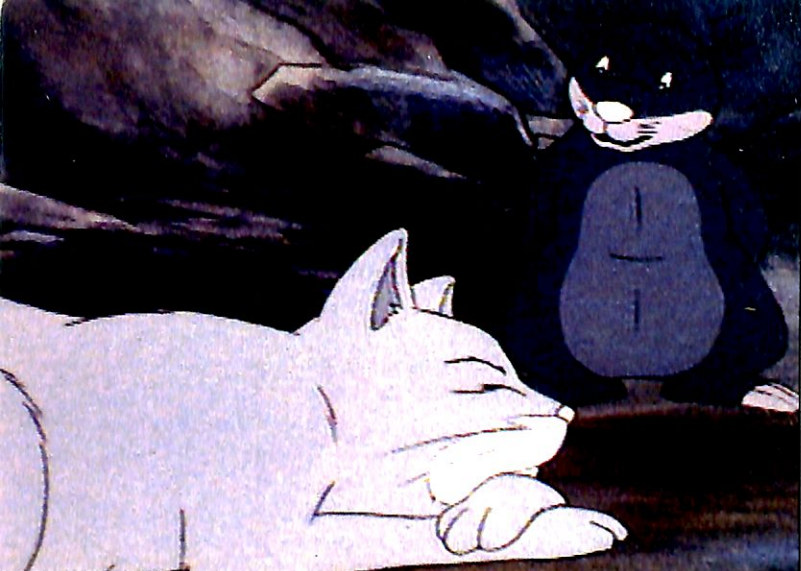
"Your friend, Badger, has already told me your tale," Cat yawned and settled himself down to sleep.



"I'll guard him with my life," said Mole.



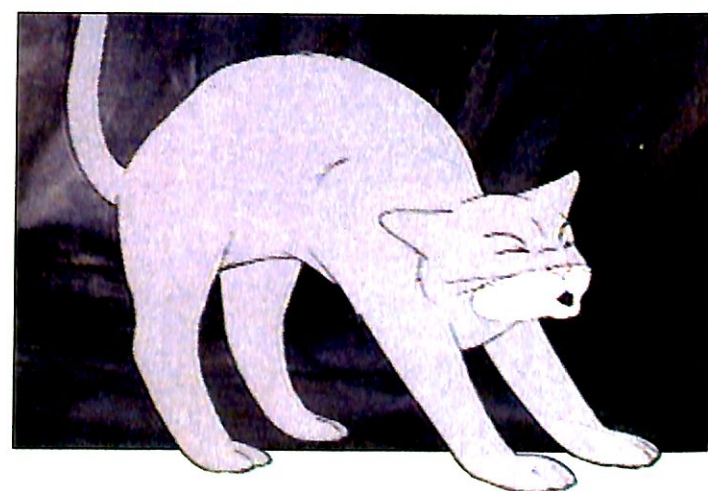
"Wonderful," muttered Cat. "At least I'm safe from an attack by worms!" He settled down to rest.



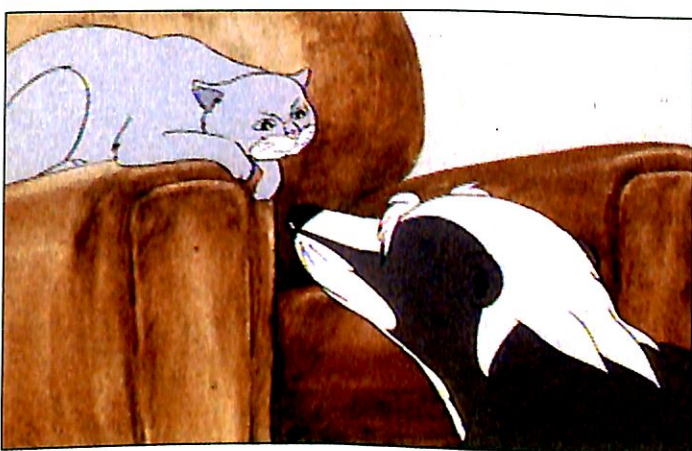
"Sleep, that's the best thing for you," said Mole. His tummy started to rumble. "I wonder if I could pop home to get some worms," he thought.



Cat seemed to be sound asleep, so Mole scampered out.



Cat sat up and stretched. "So much for life in the wild," he said, and set off home to tell Badger all about it.



"Kestrel attacked you?" said Badger, amazed. "Just wait till I get my own back," replied Cat. "You can't do that," said Badger. "She's my friend and now she's one of yours."



The Warden took off Badger's bandage. "There old fellow, you can get off home now," he said, opening the door.



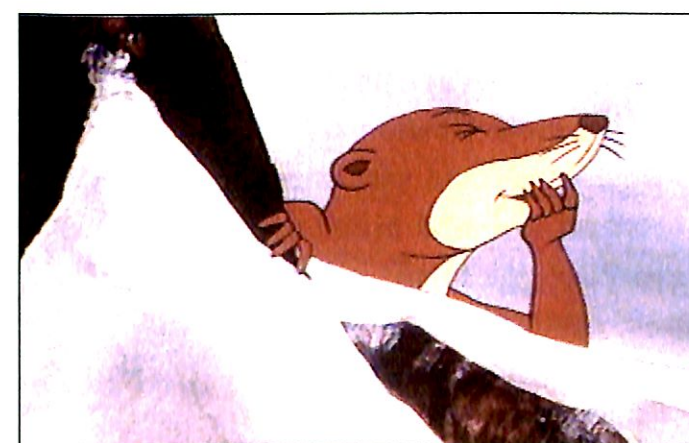
A cold blast of air hit Badger as he set off. "Take care," called Cat, as he watched Badger walk back to the wood.



Fox and Vixen met the Squirrels while they were out hunting. "What's the point of our storing up nuts if Weasel raids our larder?" cried the Squirrels to Fox.



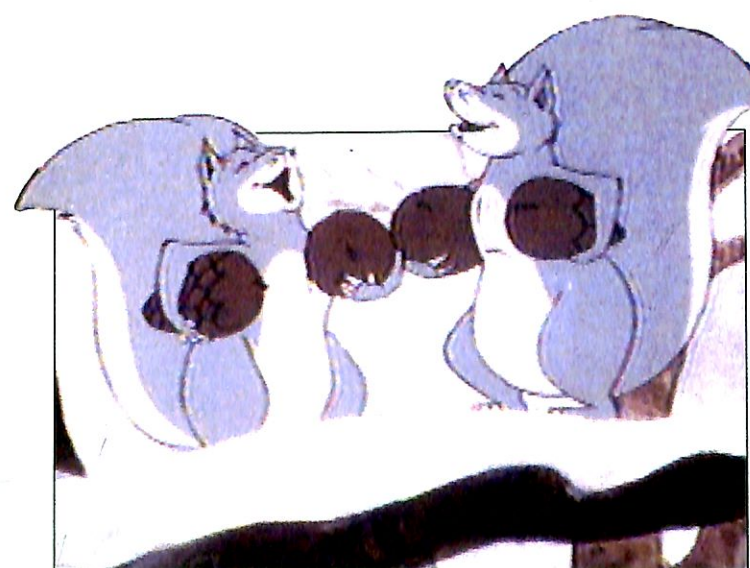
"That ... Weasel," said Fox, crossly.



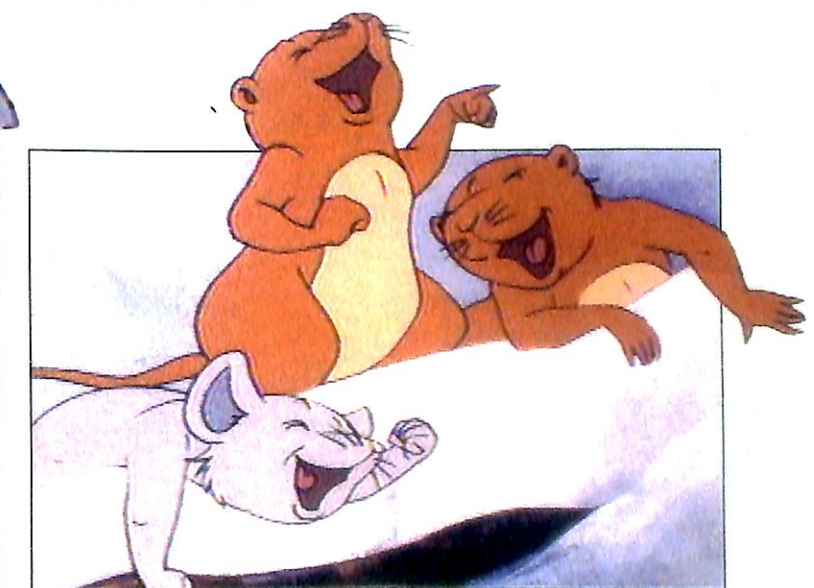
Weasel laughed to herself from behind the tree. She had heard it all.



Suddenly, a hail of pine cones fell on her head and she screamed.



"The joke's on you," called the Squirrels.



The Voles and Mice laughed to see Weasel trying to avoid being hit. "Serves you right!" said Fox, turning to go.

Next week: Surviving the winter.

All About...



“Hello there. I’m Mrs Kingfisher. Like the rest of my family I’m rather shy, so you may not have seen me. You might spot me as I flash along the riverbank, or perch in a tree over the water, watching for a meal. Take a good look at me here — you can see that I’m very brightly coloured, rather like an exotic jungle bird. I’m always near clean, fresh water. I like slow-flowing rivers, canals, lakes, ponds and streams where I can find small fish and other water creatures to eat. As you might guess, we Kingfishers are experts at fishing — we usually catch a fish every two or three dives. It takes our young quite a while to learn the skill.”



We Kingfishers are quite small — we’re only a little bigger than Robins. But once you’ve seen us, I don’t think you’d confuse us with any other bird in Britain. We have a large head, a long, dagger-like beak, a short tail and a plumpish body. Our head, back and wing feathers are brilliant greenish blue

with a paler blue streak running from the neck to the tail. Our cheeks and chest are orangey brown and we have a white streak at the throat and side of the neck. Males and females look the same except for the colour of the beak: mine has an orangey patch underneath but the males have none.

Weasel’s Easel
Kingfishers’ bright colouring might well be a signal to birds of prey to remind them that Kingfishers taste horrible.



COURTING

We Kingfishers spend most of the year on our own, patrolling our separate stretches of water. But in January and February courtship begins.

When I find a mate, we fly around together, swooping and diving after each other. When we land on a branch we bob up and down, side by side. Sometimes my mate will bring me a fish and feed it to me, just as we feed our chicks later in the year.

Our normal call is a piping ‘chee’ or ‘chee-chee’ sound, but when we’re courting we produce high-pitched whistles instead.



Be a Nature Detective

HOUSE HUNTING

Next time you’re walking along the bank of a slow-running river or stream why not look out for a Kingfisher’s nesting hole. They make a round hole, a bit bigger than a golf ball, in the side of the bank. If it has chicks in it you will probably see dark splotches below the hole where their liquid droppings have dribbled out from the nest. You might also see greyish clumps of fish bones just inside the hole.



All About...

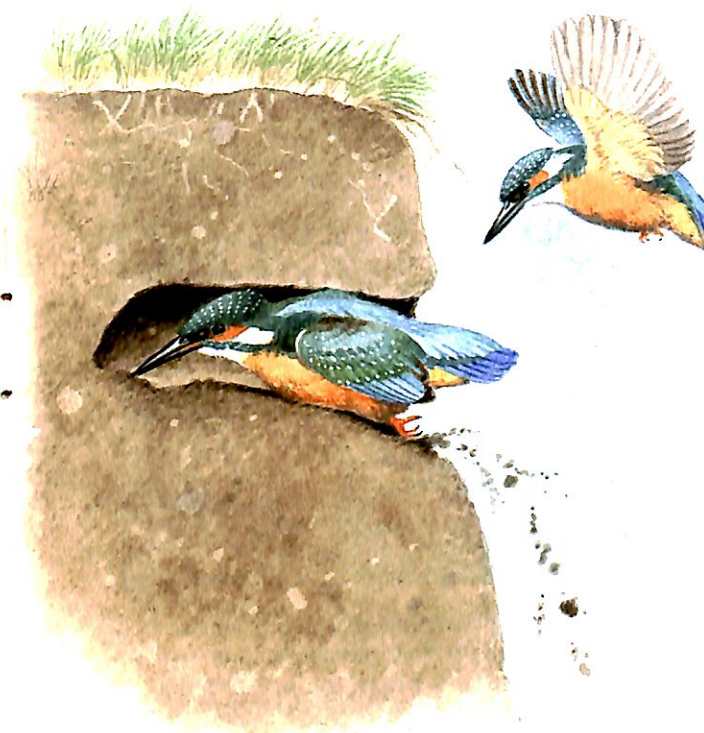
Raising the young

“As the weather warms up, we start to look for a good nest site, usually in the open bank of a stream or lake. It takes us about two weeks to dig a tunnel and nest chamber. We make sure the tunnel has a gentle upward slope, so that rain will not be driven into it and the chicks’ droppings can drain out of the nest.

The tunnel is usually the length of a man’s arm and the chamber is about 15cm across.”



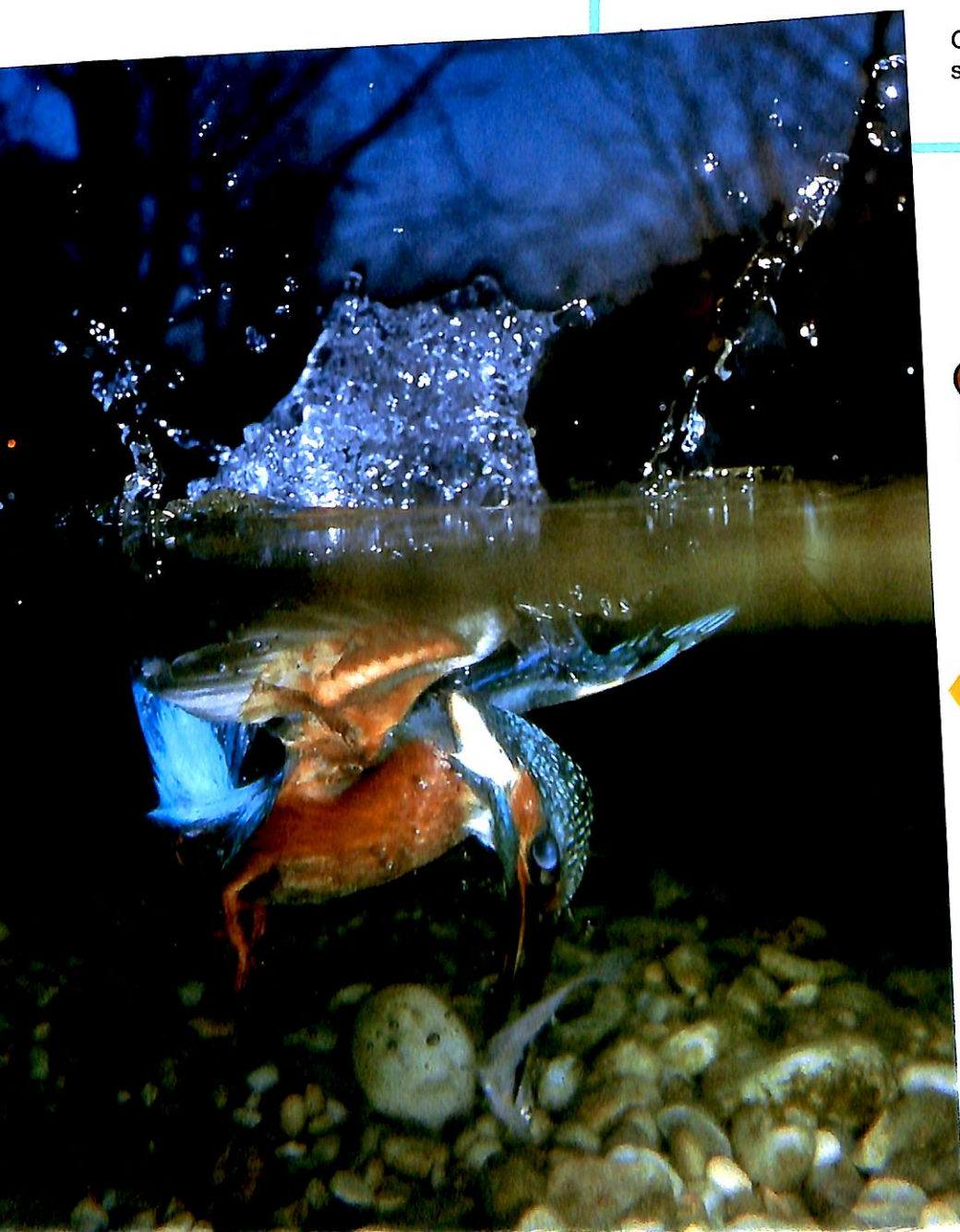
One Kingfisher flies at the bank and starts to drill a hole with its sharp beak.



The partner stays on guard outside while the tunnel builder shuffles in to dig it out further. The bird kicks out the loose earth with its feet.



When the nest chamber is hollowed out the female lays about six pinkish eggs on the earth. These turn white before they hatch.



Weasel's Easel
When streams and ponds freeze over, Kingfishers cannot get at the water creatures they normally eat and many of them die.

It takes an adult only a few seconds to plummet down into the water, grab a fish and resurface. If it's a spiny fish, like a stickleback, we take it to a perch and beat it against a branch until the spines are knocked off. Then we can eat it. With other fish, like minnows, we swallow them whole, head first.

When our young are learning to catch fish they sometimes have to make eight or nine dives before they catch one. If they dive too often their feathers become waterlogged, and then they are too heavy to fly. If that happens, they usually die.



When the chicks are born they are blind and naked. We parents take it in turn to stay in the chamber, keeping them warm. But after a week the job of feeding them is too much for just one of us and so we both fly to and fro, bringing them beakfuls of fish.

We give the fish to them head first so that the fin bones do not stick in their throats as they swallow them. By the time they're three weeks old they each need up to four fish every hour!

The nest chamber and the tunnel get so clogged up with bits of fish and droppings that we parents have to take a dip to clean our feathers every time we come out.

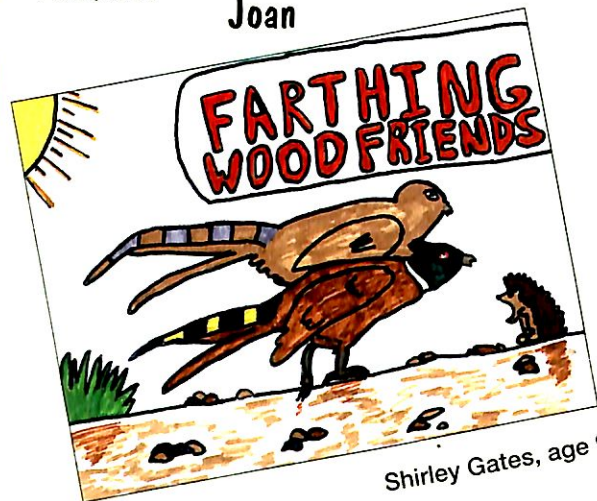
When the young emerge from the nest their feathers are not as bright as ours. Their head feathers are ruffled, their feet are darker than ours and they have a white tip to the beak.



Dear Friends!

This week we have a puzzle and our first limerick sent in by readers!

Joan



Shirley Gates, age 9

When man came to the wood,
And filled in all the ponds,
And cut down all the trees,
The animals made a bond.
They took an oath together,
Not to harm a single one,
Of their fellow creatures,
And to go and have some fun.
They left the wood behind them,
And an adventure did begin,
To find the White Deer Park,
And a safe place to live in.

Samantha Walters

Sarah Campbell, age 7½

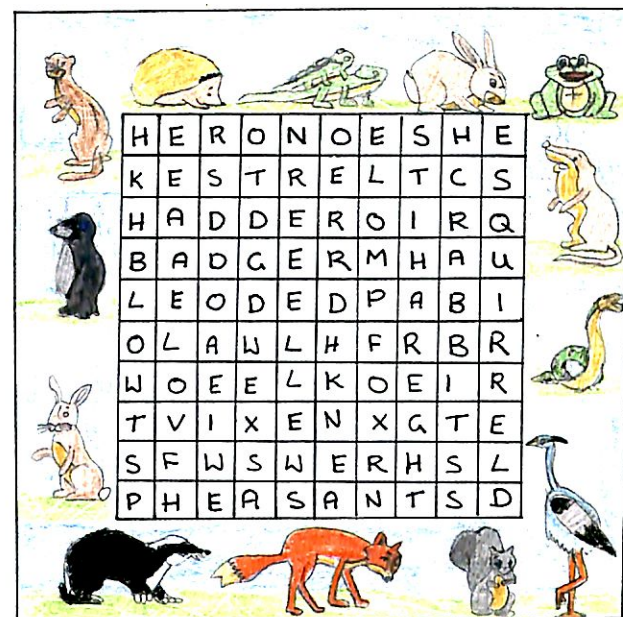


How do you know
when it's raining
cats and dogs?

When you step in a
puddle.
Katherine Orriss

What is another
name for a
Water otter?

A Kettle!
Liam Dawtry, age 5



There are 17 Farthing Wood animals in the wordsearch. When you have found them all, guess which animal is missing. A clue: loves practical jokes!

Alison Machin, age 12



Natalie Rhodes, age 9½

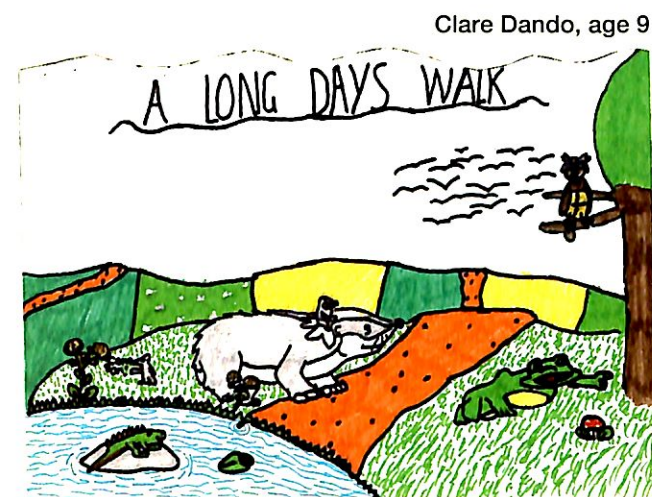
A TRUE STORY

I go to gymnastics every Friday at 6-7pm. My Dad picked me up and we were coming down our wee road (we live in the country) and Daddy saw a hedgehog at the side of the road. He was going to leave it but I told him to stop because it seemed to be hurt. Daddy looked at it and tried to roll it back into the hedge but it rolled out again. We went on and got a box. We took it home and fed it cat food and water. Thanks to Farthing Wood I knew how to help it. Next day we took it to the fields behind our house and left it under a big bush in a ditch. We came looking for it now and again but it usually walks up and down the ditch. We think it has a sore leg. I call him Mr Hedgie and I love him very much.

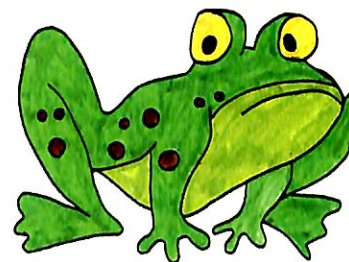
Anna McLoughlin, age 10

Tuesday's here, Hip, hip, hurray,
My Farthing Wood arrives today.
Animals, insects, birds galore,
I wonder what will be in store.
Puzzles, jokes or games to play,
Things to make on a rainy day,
Learn to draw animals, insects too,
There's always a surprise for you.
Well done, Farthing Wood
It's a great magazine,
By far the best
We've ever seen.

Victoria Walker, age 8



Clare Dando, age 9



Natalie Chivers, age 6



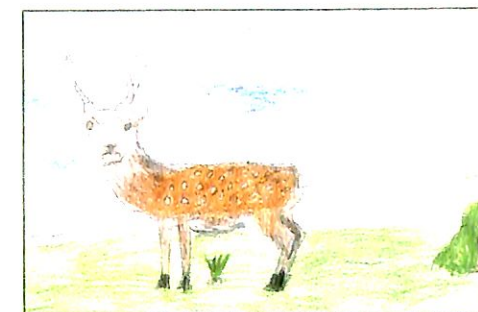
Helen Wilson, age 8

There was an old Badger called Billy,
Who had a friend Weasel called Willy.
They once went to school,
But ended up playing Pool.
So I think you'll agree they're both silly.

Katie Johnson, age 11



David Wright



Michael Easton, age 8

Shall I tell you
the joke about
the wall?

Better not, You'll
never get over it.

Melanie Hill, age 10



Alexandra Meechan, age 10

What move in
football can a
baby do?

Dribble!

Imeh Okon, age 7

Mole is NEAT,
Mole is sweet,
He digs underground,
Oh look what he's found!

Mole is the BEST
With his hairy, hairy chest.
With his small pink nose,
He sniffs as he goes.

MOLE!
Helen Glover

What do you call a
girl with a frog on
her head?

Lily!

Rebecca Prout, age 10

There is a £5
book token for
anything used on
this page.



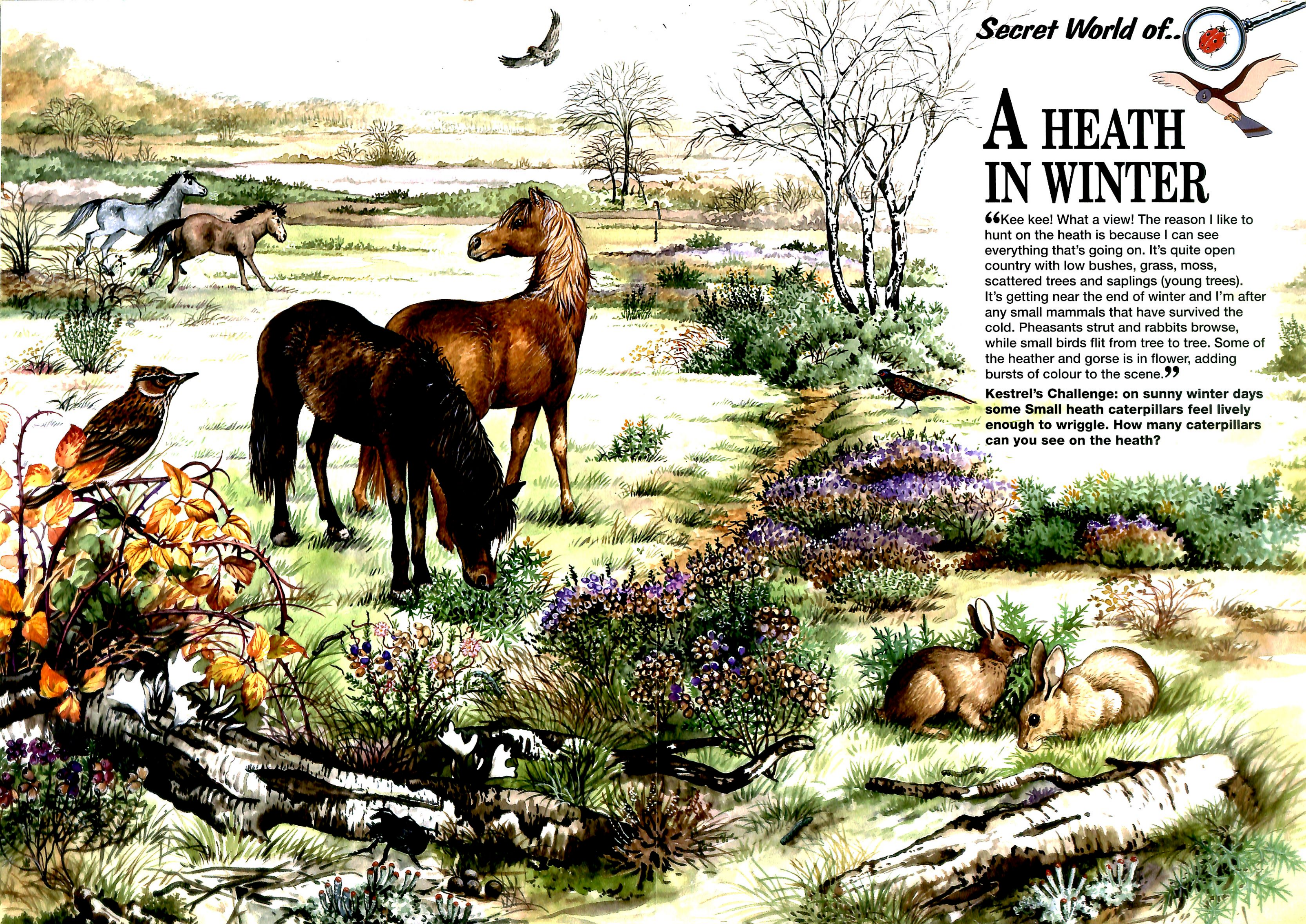
Secret World of..

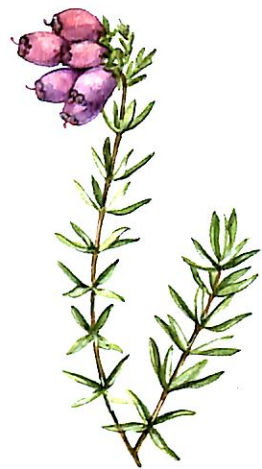


A HEATH IN WINTER

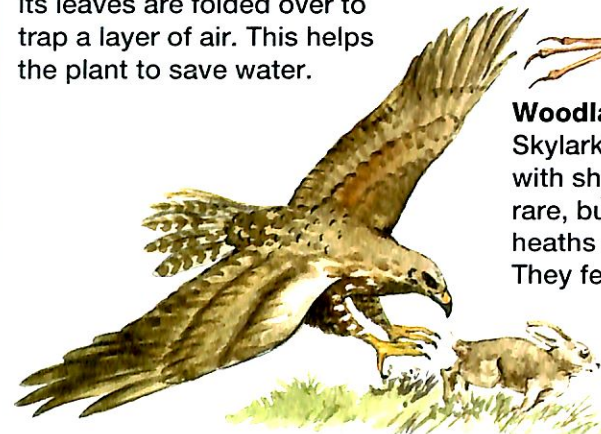
“Kee kee! What a view! The reason I like to hunt on the heath is because I can see everything that’s going on. It’s quite open country with low bushes, grass, moss, scattered trees and saplings (young trees). It’s getting near the end of winter and I’m after any small mammals that have survived the cold. Pheasants strut and rabbits browse, while small birds flit from tree to tree. Some of the heather and gorse is in flower, adding bursts of colour to the scene.”

Kestrel’s Challenge: on sunny winter days some Small heath caterpillars feel lively enough to wriggle. How many caterpillars can you see on the heath?





Cross-leaved heath is an evergreen plant like heather, with clusters of pinkish, drooping flowers. It is common on wet heaths and bogs. The edges of its leaves are folded over to trap a layer of air. This helps the plant to save water.

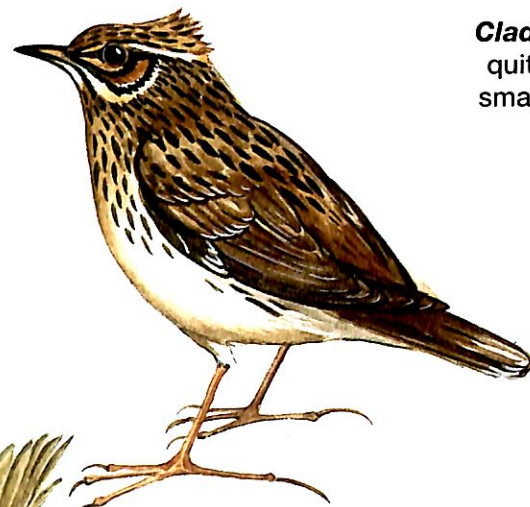


The **buzzard's** sharp eyes scan the ground for rabbits as it soars high in the sky. Its plumage can vary from pale grey to dark brown. They are fairly easy to identify by their broad wings with patchy markings underneath.

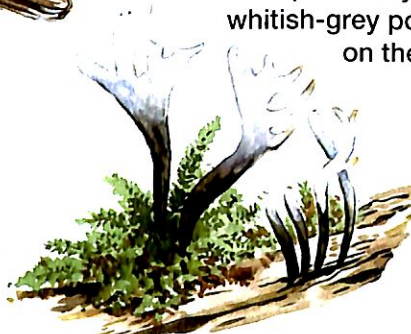


Broom's golden yellow flowers cover the heath in early spring. When a bee lands on a flower, its weight makes the petals flick apart, shooting pollen over the bee.

Woken from their winter slumber, six caterpillars are creeping over the low plants of the heath.



Woodlarks look a bit like Skylarks but they're smaller, with shorter tails. They are quite rare, but may be found on heaths in southern England. They feed on insects and seeds.



Candle-snuff fungus grows on dead tree stumps all year round. It's quite small and easy to miss. Its black branches are antler-shaped. They have whitish-grey powder on the tips.

The **Minotaur beetle** is a dung beetle which feeds on rabbit and sheep droppings, so heathland is a good place to find them. They are normally seen from spring onwards, but some may be out and about even earlier in mild weather.



Common dodder is the 'vampire' of the plant world. First it wraps its red stems round other plants such as heather. Then it bites into the stem and feeds off it.



Wild ponies roam free in woods and over heaths in some parts of the country. The New Forest ponies in the picture are owned by farmers but are left to wander and browse on wild plants.



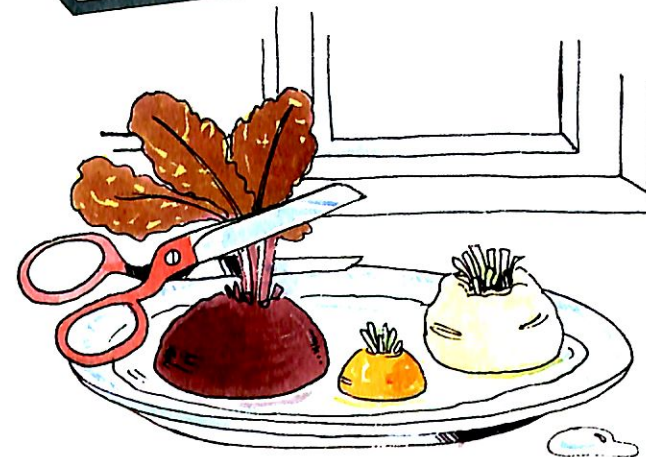
Cladonia floerkeana is a lichen, and quite common on heaths. It grows in small clumps of green stalks with red tips. They look like matchsticks sticking up out of the ground.



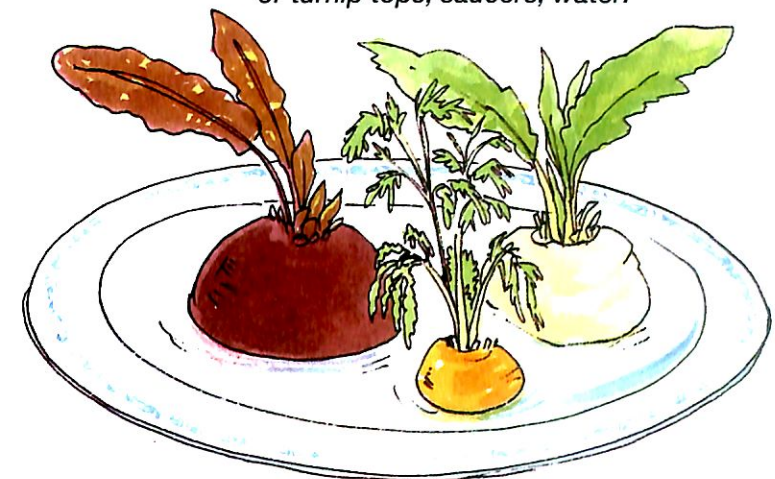
GREEN FINGERS

Where do baby beans come from? They're brought by the stalk!

VEGGIE TOPPERS You will need: fresh carrot, beetroot or turnip tops, saucers, water.



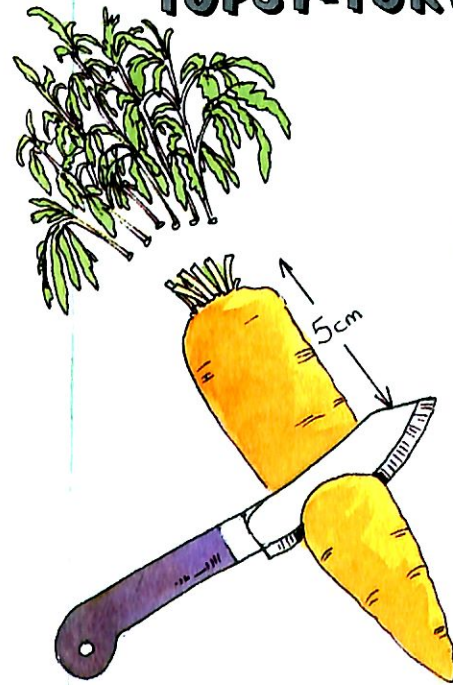
1 Trim any leaves down to 2cm. Put your vegetable tops in a saucer of water. Put the saucer on a windowsill where it will get plenty of light.



2 Look at the water level each day and top up when necessary. Within a few days you should see shoots. After a few weeks you should have grown a mass of foliage!

TOPSY-TURVY CARROTS

You will need: carrot, string, toothpick, knife.



1 Cut the carrot to 5cm long and trim any leaves down to 2cm. Ask an adult to help you hollow out the bottom of the carrot and to push a toothpick across the hole.



2 Tie a length of string to each end of the toothpick and hang the carrot up in a warm, sunny place. Carefully fill the carrot with water and keep it topped up regularly. When leaves appear they will grow upwards! This is because plants need a lot of light to grow, so they always grow towards the source of light.

Weasel's Easel
The largest carrot ever grown in Britain weighed 4.65kg - that's heavier than most new-born babies!



PERCY POTATO HEAD

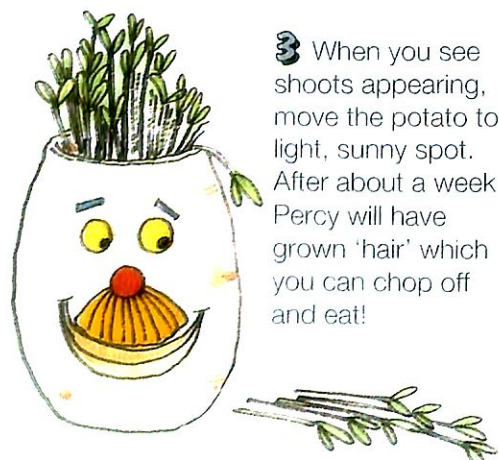
You will need: large potato, tissues, knife, packet of cress seeds, saucer.



1 Ask an adult to help you cut out a hollow, about 3cm deep, from the top of your potato. Cut a slice off the bottom so that it stands upright. Draw or carve a silly face on the front of your potato.



2 Fill the hollow with wet tissues and sprinkle plenty of cress seeds on to them. Pour some water on to a saucer and stand the potato in it. Put the potato in a warm, dark place. Keep the tissues moist with water.

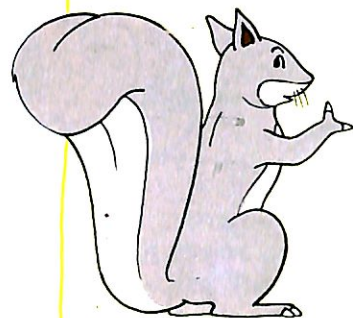


3 When you see shoots appearing, move the potato to a light, sunny spot. After about a week Percy will have grown 'hair' which you can chop off and eat!

WINTER HYACINTHS

You can get special glass jars to grow Hyacinth bulbs in. You can watch the roots as they grow. If you can't get one of these, use a glass jar with a neck just wide enough for the bulb to sit in.

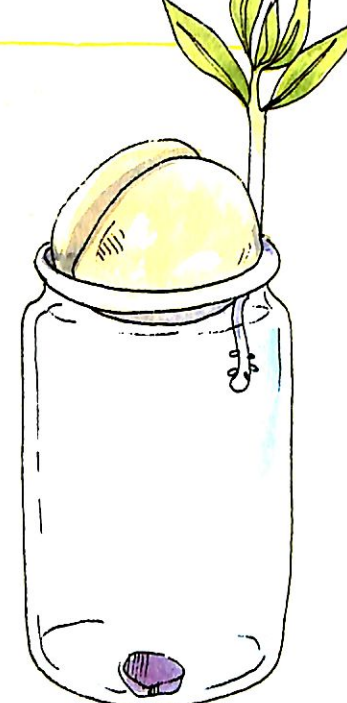
Fill the jar with water to the neck. Put a piece of charcoal in the water to keep it fresh. Place the Hyacinth bulb in the neck of the jar. Put it in a dark, warm place until the roots are a few centimetres long, then bring the jar out into the light. Remember to keep the water topped up. In a few weeks, you'll have a pretty, sweet-smelling flower.



Squirrel says
Record the growth of your Hyacinth bulb in your notebook. Start with day one and end when the flowers come out.



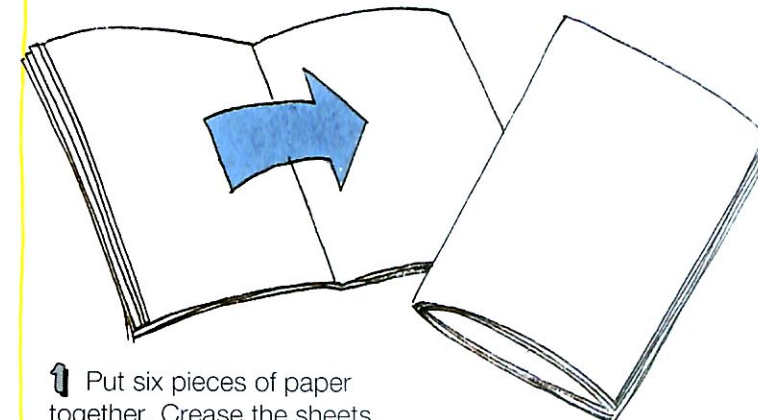
You can grow an avocado plant from its stone in a jar of water, too. You'll have to wait about a month for the root and shoot to appear. Once they look quite strong, plant the stone in a pot with some potting compost and put it in a sunny place.



KEEPING A DIARY

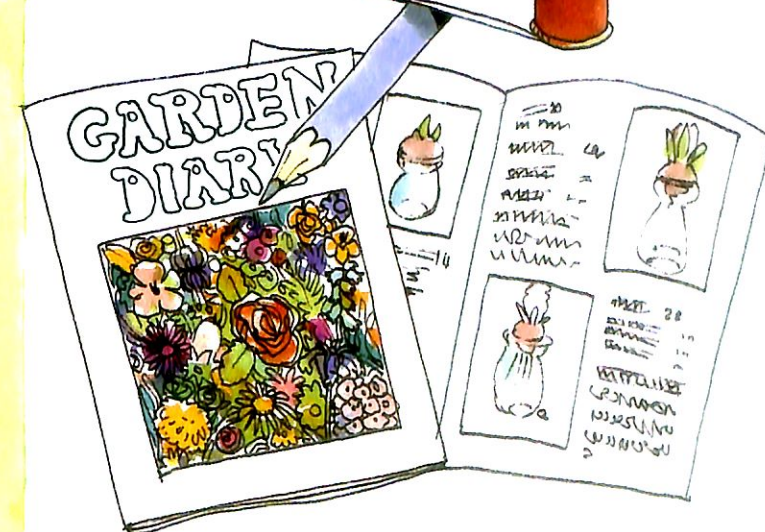
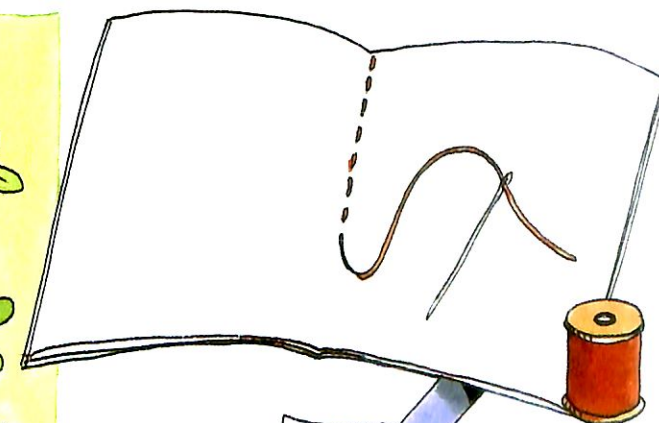
Keep a diary with notes and drawings of how your plants grow. Note the date, so you can remember when things happen. To find out how long plants take to grow, write down when the first shoots appear, then measure their growth on the same day each week.

You will need:
six sheets of paper the same size, scissors, needle, thread.



1 Put six pieces of paper together. Crease the sheets by folding them in half.

2 Thread a needle and tie a large knot in the end of the cotton. Sew through all the sheets in large stitches down the crease. Fasten off. Decorate the front of your diary.



RADISHES IN POTS

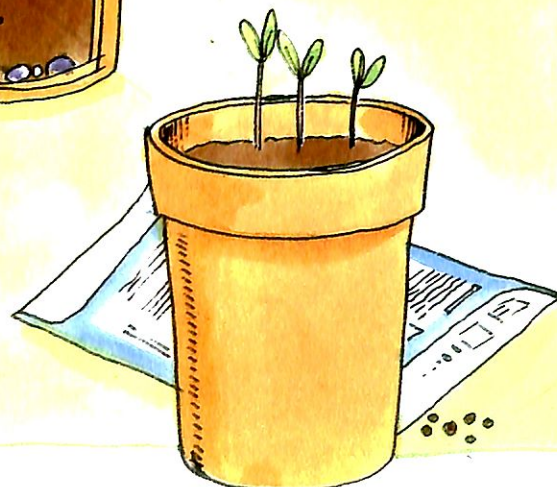
Now for something else you can eat!

You will need:
handful of small pebbles, compost, radish seeds, flowerpot.



1 Put a few pebbles in the bottom of a pot. Half fill it with compost. Plant a few radish seeds. Fill the pot with compost and water well.

2 Place the pot on a light windowsill. Water it when the compost feels dry. After about a month the radishes should be ready to eat.



SEE FOR YOURSELF

Plenty of seeds will grow in a pot of compost. Try apple and lemon pips, conkers, shelled peanuts, peach and cherry stones. You won't get any fruit, but you'll get an interesting plant and perhaps some colourful flowers, too.

LEAVES

Leaves come in thousands of shapes – but they are nearly always green. This is because they contain something called chlorophyll, which works with sunshine to help the plant make its food. Here are some special leaves to learn about.



▲ JUNGLE ROOF

Most of the action in a rainforest takes place high above the ground in a thick, green canopy of leaves. Most of the animals and birds live here. Each leaf has a shiny surface to prevent moss growing on it. Each one is angled to catch as much light as possible.

Q : Which leaf is used to cure nettle stings?

A : The Dock leaf.



◀ DESERT STRAPS

In the Namib desert, the Welwitschia plant grows huge, twisting strap-like leaves. They start off wide and green, but as the wind rubs them against the rough ground they become brown and frayed. If this didn't happen, the leaves would carry on growing for hundreds of metres.

IT'S Amazing!



LUCKY LEAF

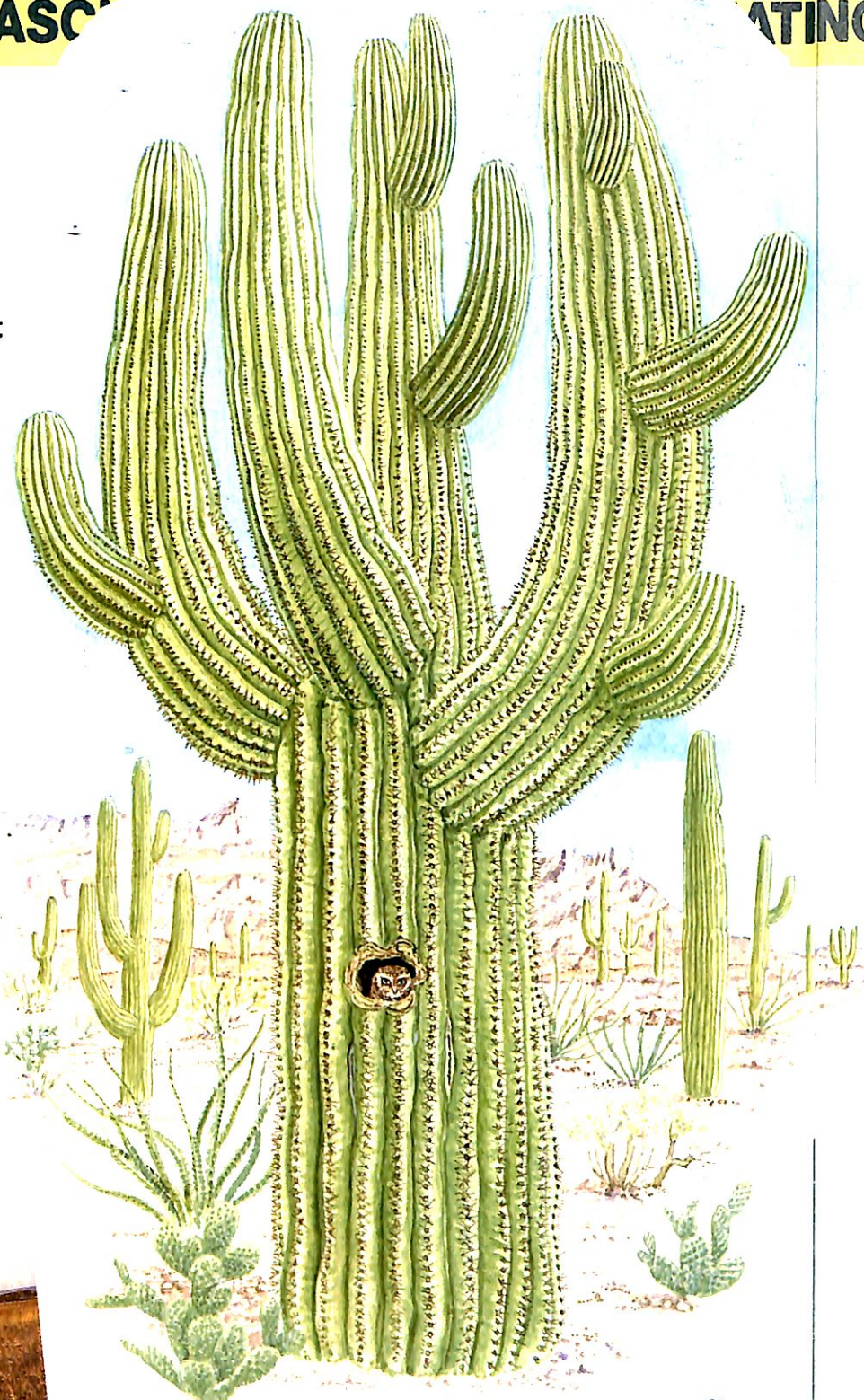
A four-leaved Clover is so hard to find that you could spend the whole day searching a field and still not find one. When you do it's supposed to bring you good luck. One mega-lucky man found a 14-leaved clover in South Dakota, USA.

▶ COSY JACKET

Hedgehog makes a nest of dead leaves to keep him dry in winter. You might think he could find something better but leaves really are best for the job. A good pile of leaves is like Hedgehog's weatherproof jacket.



What do you call a man rolling in a pile of leaves?
Russell.



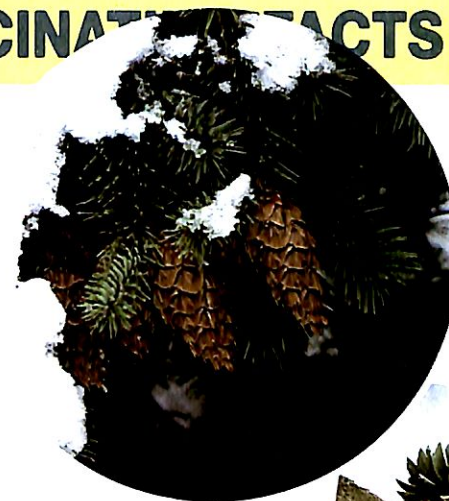
◀ ORGAN PIPE CACTUS

This huge Saguaro cactus doesn't look like it has any leaves – but it does. They have become tiny spines, so they don't lose precious water in the dry desert. The spines protect the plant from being eaten by animals. An Elf owl lives in a hole in the side of this prickly specimen.



◀ BIG BULLY LILY

The huge leaves of the Victoria lily grow on the surface of still water in the Amazon. These round lily pads can be two metres across. They are turned up at the edge and made stronger by thick air-filled ribs. As the leaves grow, they push other water plants out of the way.



▶ PINES AND NEEDLES

Many pines and cedars have leaves that look like needles. This Douglas fir's leaves are thin and flat. They are bendy enough to shed snow easily, so that they don't get too heavy and break the tree's branches. Inside the leaves is a sort of anti-freeze to protect them from frost.

▼ LEAF OVERCOAT

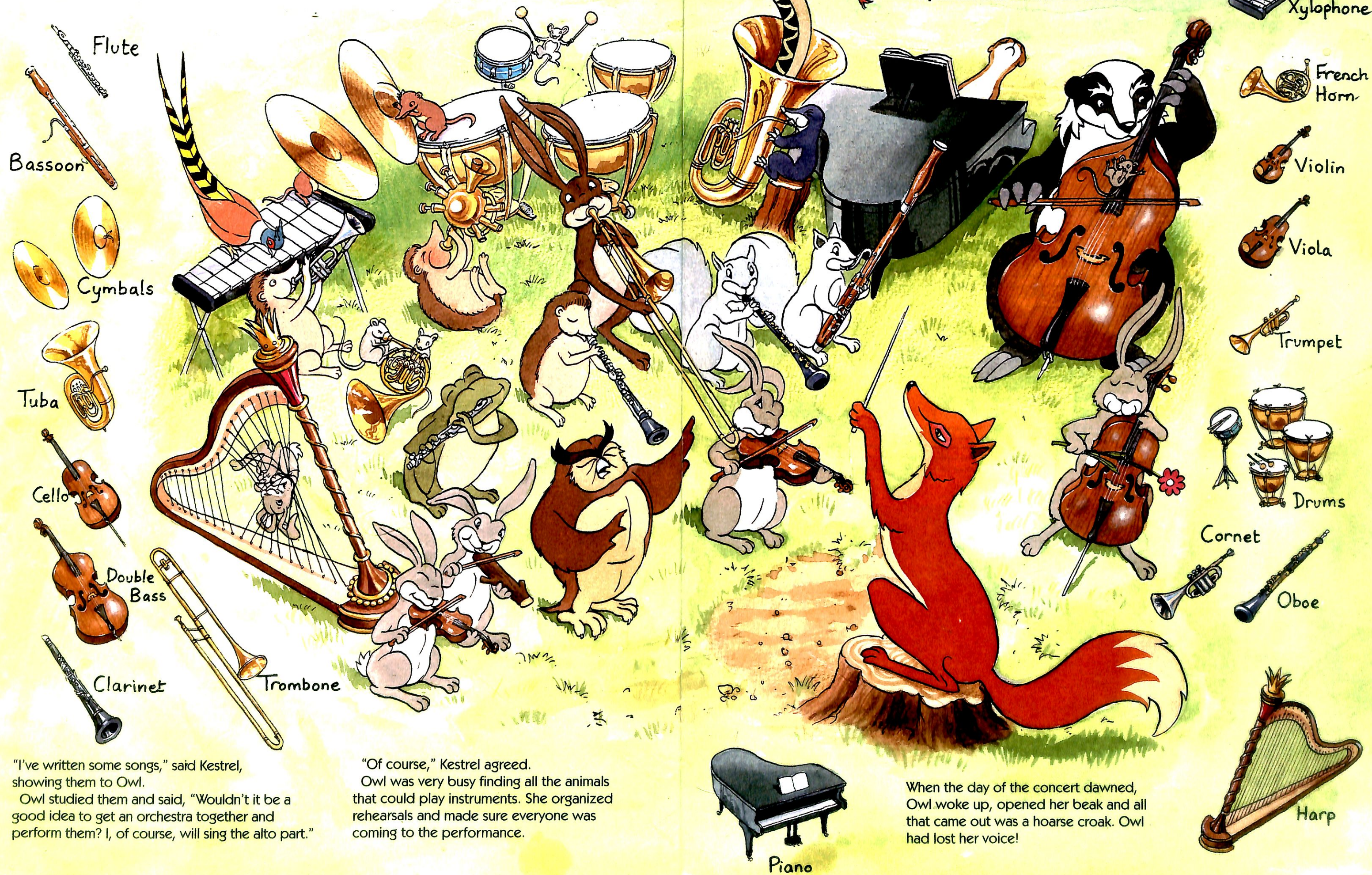
In the high valleys of Mount Kenya, giant Tree groundsels grow. Each one looks like a big doner kebab topped with a cabbage. Green leaves sprout from the crest, while old, dead leaves hang on to the main stem. These trap warm air in a layer around the trunk to protect it from the cold.



SIX SILLY THINGS

Can you spot six silly things happening in the orchestra?

SPOT THE INSTRUMENT
Look at the instruments round the page and see if you can find them in the orchestra.



Owl studied them and said, "Wouldn't it be a good idea to get an orchestra together and perform them? I, of course, will sing the alto part."

Owl was very busy finding all the animals that could play instruments. She organized rehearsals and made sure everyone was coming to the performance.

When the day of the concert dawned, Owl woke up, opened her beak and all that came out was a hoarse croak. Owl had lost her voice!

Puzzle it out ???

"Oh no!" cried Kestrel, who was singing soprano, "What are we going to do?"
 "Whatever you do, don't ask Weasel," croaked Owl.
 "There's only one bird I can think of," said Kestrel, "and that's Whistler's girlfriend, Speedy. It's worth asking her."

Kestrel flew to the pond where Whistler and Speedy were fishing. "I'll try," said Speedy. When she began to sing, they were all astonished – she had a superb voice. Speedy practised all day. After her performance at the concert, the audience clapped so long that she had to sing some of the songs again!

MUSICAL NOTES

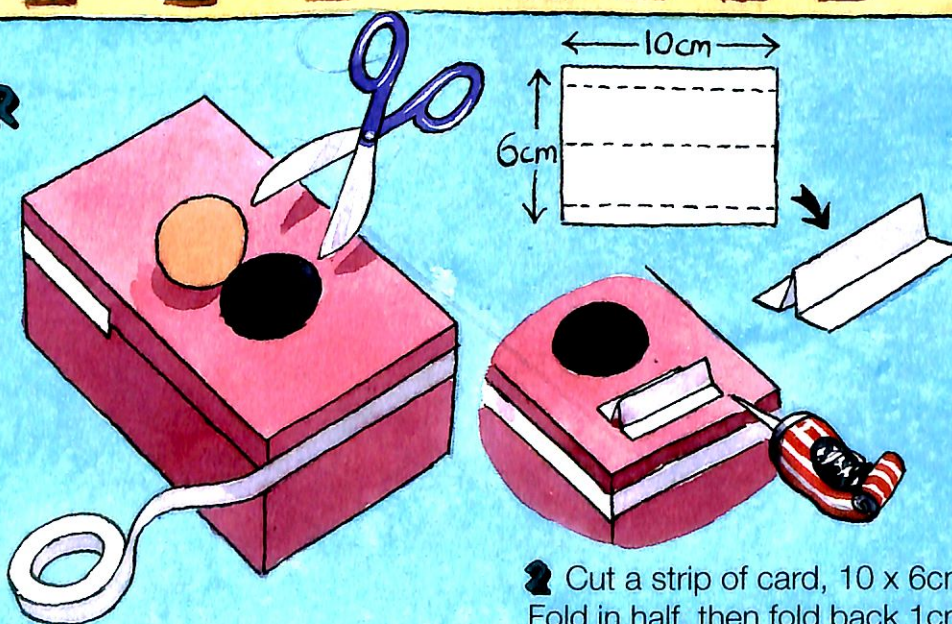
Musical notes are given letters as names. Here are eight notes in the treble clef with their correct names. Can you read these words made from notes? Can you make up any of your own?

What tune do you sing in a car?
 A cartoon.



Make more music with your SHOEBOX GUITAR

You'll need a strong shoebox, card (cut from an empty cereal packet), six rubber bands of different sizes and thicknesses, glue, strong sticky tape and scissors.



1 Cut a round hole, 9cm wide, near one end of the lid. Firmly tape the lid to the box.

2 Cut a strip of card, 10 x 6cm. Fold in half, then fold back 1cm on each side. Glue the strip to the lid behind the hole to make the bridge.

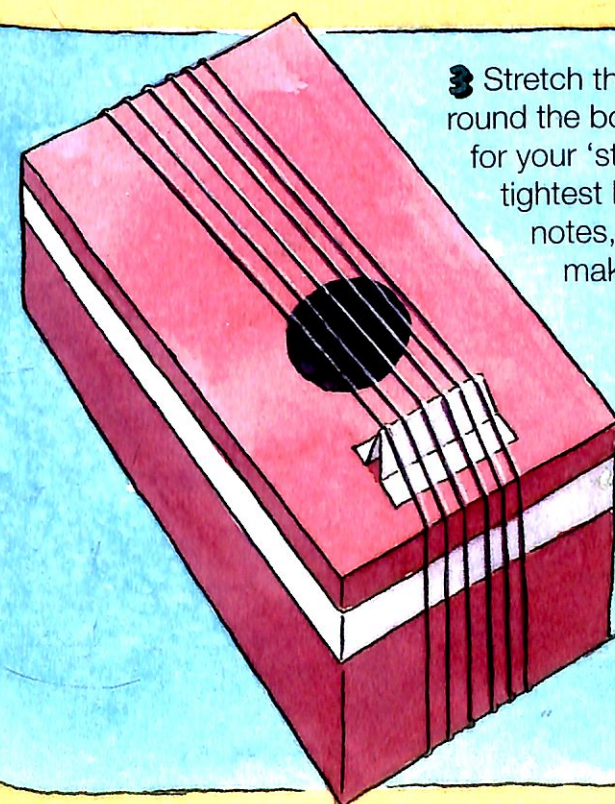
MORE INSTRUMENTS

Can you work out which instruments are in the picture puzzles? The best way is to read each puzzle out loud.

SIX SILLY THINGS Look at the trumpet, harp, double bass, log violin, tuba and cello.
MUSICAL NOTES 1 BAG 2 FADE 3 BEAD 4 DEAF 5 FACE 6 BED 7 FAB 8 CAFE
MORE INSTRUMENTS 1 Piano 2 Violin 3 Cornet 4 Trombone 5 Recorder 6 Triangle

3 Stretch the six rubber bands round the box and over the bridge for your 'strings'. The thinnest, tightest bands make the higher notes, the thicker, looser ones make the lower notes.

4 To play, strum or pluck at the 'strings' with your fingers. Decorate your guitar as you like.



Colour it in 

WATCH OUT!

